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program code for a selection step of selecting, after an observation area is designated in the designation step, one appropriate output medium type from a plurality of output medium types based on the observation area designated in the designation step.--

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 39-111 are pending in the present application. Claims 39, 53, 67, 68, 76, 80, 86, 94, 98, and 101-111 are the independent claims. Claims 39-67 were previously withdrawn by the Examiner.

Claims 1-38 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 68-111 are newly-presented. No new matter is believed to have been added.

The aforementioned Office Action objected to the title. By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended the title in a manner believed to even more clearly indicate the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the title are respectfully requested.

Cancelled Claims 12, 19, 27 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art make and/or use the invention. Applicants submit that this rejection is mooted by the cancellation of Claims 1-38. Further, it is respectfully submitted that newly-presented Claims 68-111 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 24, 27, 31, 34, and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,335,796 (Endo). Claims 13, 20, 28, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Endo in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,432,532 (Mochimaru). Claims 5, 14, 15, 21, 22, 29, 30, 36, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Endo in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,774,232 (Tabata). Claims 10, 11, 17, 18, 25, 26, 32, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Endo in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,356,651 (Murakami). These rejections are deemed moot by the cancellation of Claims 1-38. Further, it is respectfully submitted that, at least for the reasons discussed below, newly-presented Claims 68-111 patentably define the present invention over the citations of record.

Independent Claim 68 recites, inter alia, selection means for selecting one appropriate output medium type from a plurality of output media types based on the observation area designated by a designation means and a changing means for changing output method when the selection means cannot select an appropriate output medium type. Independent Claims 86, 105, and 108 correspond generally to independent Claim 68 and recite similar features in method, system, and method forms, respectively.

Independent Claim 76 recites, inter alia, changing means for changing output method based on a relationship between size of the designated observation area and size of the output medium type selected by a selection means. Independent Claims 94, 106, and 109 correspond generally to independent Claim 76 and recite similar features in method, system and method forms, respectively.

Independent Claim 80 recites, inter alia, selection means for selecting, after an observation area is designated by a designation means, one appropriate output medium type from a plurality of output medium types based on the observation area designated by the designation means. Independent Claims 98, 104, 107, 110, and 111 correspond generally to independent Claim 80 and recite similar features in method, computer-readable storage medium, system, method, and computer-readable storage medium forms, respectively.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Endo, Mochimaru, Tabata, nor Murakami, either alone or in combination (assuming that these documents can properly be combined), teaches or suggests at least the aforesaid features of the independent claims.

Endo relates to an image pick-up apparatus, image pick-up method, and image pick-up system and discloses selecting a film size and limiting an observational area to the size of the selected film. Endo further teaches several output formats such as, for example, “2 up horizontally” and 2 up vertically.” However, the output format is manually selected by a user. Also, the film size and the output format are selected independently from each other.

Mochimaru relates to a video printer for printing a plurality of kinds of images of different image formats and discloses changing an output method on the basis of the ratio of the image to be output. Further, Mochimaru does not consider a designated observational area in selecting an output medium type. Also, Mochimaru does not teach or suggest selecting or changing means of Claims 76, 80, 94, 98, 104, 106, 107, 109, 110, and 111.

Tabata relates to an image recording apparatus and discloses dividing an image into a plurality of areas and forming the image on a plurality of sheets. Murakami relates to a method and apparatus for recognizing irradiation fields on radiation images and discloses setting an irradiation field based on an X-ray irradiation field stop of an X-ray generation apparatus. Further, neither Tabata nor Murakami discloses considering a designated observational area in selecting an output medium type. Also, Tabata and Murakami do not teach or suggest either the selecting means or changing means of Claims 76, 80, 94, 98, 104, 106, 107, 109, 110, and 111.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as the base claims from which they depend and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action and submits that the present application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.